

Remarks

Claims 1-9 and 11 were pending. No claims are added or cancelled by this amendment. Therefore, claims 1-9 and 11 are still pending.

Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended to clarify the claims and correct antecedent basis. Support for such amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example page 6, lines 4-5. No new matter is added by these amendments, and no amendments were made to distinguish prior art.

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-4), with traverse.

It is stated on page 3 of the Office action that claim 1 is indefinite, and as a result, there is no unifying technical feature. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method is a method of treating depression by administration of an N-type calcium channel inhibitor to the subject. Therefore, the claims set forth the special technical feature over the prior art, namely, the discovery that the N-type calcium channel is involved in depression, and that depression can be treated by administering an agent that inhibits the N-type calcium channel.

In view of the amendment of claim 1, Applicants request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered, and that the claim groups be recombined. For example, at least Groups I and II should be recombined, as they merely claim the use of different species of N-type calcium channel inhibitors. At most, the division of Groups I and II is a species election, not a restriction requirement.


If there are any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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